

## Regional Notes

# Sharing Scientific Knowledge and Promoting Trade Shows

### Chinese Government Officials Complete Sanitary-Phytosanitary Training

Last November, 15 Chinese government officials learned how the United States meets its SPS (sanitary and phytosanitary) requirements under the WTO (World Trade Organization). Through classroom presentations and U.S. site visits, the trainees—most of whom were from China's food safety and animal and plant health regulatory agencies—received the information they need to implement their country's SPS Agreement commitments. This training will help China move into full WTO membership while also improving bilateral communication to prevent misunderstandings on food safety and animal and plant health issues. Australia, Canada, the European Union and Japan have provided similar training for Chinese officials.

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### Japanese Group Sees How the United States Uses Biotechnology

Last August, a Japanese team of three farmers, one college professor, four reporters and one non-governmental organization representative visited the United States to get an up-close look at the use of biotechnology in the United States. In Hawaii, the team saw the U.S. government research laboratory where the first biotech papaya resistant to papaya ring spot virus was developed. This biotech papaya, called Rainbow, saved the Hawaiian papaya industry in 1998. The team also visited a

non-biotech papaya farm and shipper and a grocery store that sells biotech papaya. In the Midwest, the team learned about drought-resistant cassava, the benefits of no-till farming and how crops developed through biotechnology reduce labor, increase yield and require less pesticides. In Washington, DC, the group met with representatives of USDA, the U.S. Congress and the private sector, nonprofit organizations and trade associations. ■

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### Upcoming Asia Trade Show Opportunities

FAS will support booths at the following trade shows:

**HOFEX 2005:** May 10-13, 2005, Hong Kong

**SIAL China 2005:** May 18-20, 2005, Shanghai, China

**Taipei International Food Show:** June 15-18, 2005, Taipei, Taiwan

**Food and Hotel China 2005:** June 28-30, 2005, Beijing, China

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